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ABSTRACT

This middle school unit of study on archaeology is designed so that students become part of the process of historical discovery. The unit aims to bring history alive by revealing parallels between everyday life in ancient times and everyday life today. Students are asked to investigate and interpret artifacts from their own lives and homes. Critical thinking is an integral part of the unit, since every part of an excavation must be interpreted in archaeology. Science experiments, mathematics, written reports, panel discussions, and the creation of and participation in an actual archaeological dig are all included in the unit. An archaeological conference at which the results of each excavation are reported culminates the unit. A museum display exhibits the artifacts and projects completed throughout the unit. The unit is designed so that middle school students benefit from the hands-on activities that bring complex concepts to life. This book consolidates separate subject areas into a conceptual whole that is easily taught by teachers of different subjects, or those involved in a core curriculum. A pretest and/or posttest provides a further measure of student growth. Lessons involve deciphering ancient writing, interpreting artifacts, and determining what life was like for ancient Greeks. A glossary is included. (Contains 43 references.) (BT)

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